

Cindy Cottone

The Bible Corner



Who calls me?

With his shepherd's rod to support him, Moses climbed to a point on the mountain where he could watch the sheep as they grazed. The short walk to his resting place had tired him, and Moses looked around for a place to sit. Mount Horeb was located at the edge of the desert. An oasis of sorts, the mountain provided sufficient grass for the sheep in an area where little else grew. It was known as the mountain of God, and in this resting place was a special peace that Moses relished.

"I have become an old man," Moses thought as he looked out over the vast desert. Forty years had passed since Moses had fled Egypt. But, even so, he thought often about the family he had left behind. Miriam, his sister, and Aaron, his brother, if still living, were well beyond Moses' 80 years. "Perhaps they would not even recognize this old shepherd," he said, smiling to himself.

"My own two sons will probably never know their relatives," Moses decided. "But, still it is far better to exist in this lonely place than back in Egypt as one of Pharaoh's slaves."

Of this, Moses was certain. For back in Egypt, the Hebrews lived as one of the many tribes of servants whose purpose was to cater to the whims of a cruel king. "I guess it hasn't been such a bad life after all," Moses reflected.

Something bright flickered in the dis-

tance, higher up on the mountain, but Moses took no notice of it. He surveyed the sheep. "They seem as content as I am in this quiet place."

The light glowed with red hot flames, and when Moses looked up this time, it seemed as though a brush fire had begun. The grasses were so dry that even a small fire could spread quickly and devour an entire area, so Moses rushed to try and put it out.

As Moses approached the fire, he noticed something very strange. A small bush was on fire and, although it burned, it was not destroyed. "Could it be a mirage?" Moses wondered. All at once, he heard someone call his name, and he stopped, his heart beating quickly.

"Moses, Moses," he heard a second time. The voice had come from inside the fire.

Moses dared not come any closer, but this time, he answered, "Here I am. Who calls me?"

"I am the God of your fathers — the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

Moses was so frightened that he knelt down and covered his face.

"Moses, I have heard the cry of the deep sorrows of my people in Egypt. The time has come for the Hebrews to be taken out of Pharaoh's domain. I want you to go to this Pharaoh and demand that he allow the Hebrews to leave Egypt for a new land that I will give them."

"But, Lord, I'm not capable of doing a job like that!" Moses replied. "Look at me, I'm an old man and can't even walk without my shepherd's rod to help me."

"Moses, don't be afraid. I will be with you all of the time to show you the way. You will come back, to this very place on the mountain, and worship me after you have led the Hebrews out of Egypt."

Moses was still not convinced, so he made no answer to the Lord. "Go now, Moses, to the elders of Israel," God continued. "Tell them that I, 'Yahweh,' appeared to you here and tell them the promise I have made. They will believe you. After that, go to Pharaoh and tell him that I have commanded you to take the Hebrews into the desert to make a sacrifice to me there."

"But what shall I do if Pharaoh doesn't believe that you appeared to me?" Moses asked. "After all, I am just a lowly shepherd."

"What is it, Moses, that you hold in your hand?" God asked.

"It's my shepherd's rod," answered Moses.

"Throw it to the ground," the Lord commanded.

Moses watched as the rod instantly became a serpent. "Now grab it by the tail!" When Moses obeyed, it became his shepherd's rod again.

"Well, Moses, do you understand now? With me at your side, even a small thing like your shepherd's rod can be used to tell Pharaoh about your God."

"But, Lord, I still don't think I am the right person for such an important job! I am slow of speech, and my words will not impress Pharaoh. Couldn't you send someone else?"

This time God became angry. "I have chosen you, Moses, because I think you are the right person. Your brother, Aaron, is a good speaker. I'll send him with you to talk to Pharaoh. Now go. As I promised, I will be right there with you."

Moses returned home and prepared his family for the trip back to Egypt. God had spoken to Aaron, too. When Moses came back to Mt. Herob, Aaron was there to meet him. The two brothers greeted each other warmly, and they both wept.

Together, Moses and Aaron traveled to Egypt and called the elders of Israel to a meeting. When they told them of God's great plan for them, the elders believed. Everyone rejoiced in the great kindness of God. They bowed their heads and worshipped.

For Discussion:

- 1) Why did Moses flee from Egypt 40 years earlier?
- 2) What two promises did God make to Moses? What has God promised us through His Son, Jesus Christ?
- 3) God called Moses to do a very special job. He calls each one of us to help spread His kingdom. How do you think God has called you?

For Further Reading:

- 1) God called Moses to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt in Exodus, Chapters 3-4.
- 2) God used His own personal name, Yahweh, to tell Moses who was calling him. There are many other names for God throughout the Bible. A few of them can be found in: Genesis 49:24, Psalm 47:2, Psalm 96:10, Matthew 6:26, James 1:17 and Revelations 22:13.

Advance ticket sales available to Andy Williams holiday gala

Advance ticket sales for the Andy Williams Christmas Show, which will be presented at the Eastman Theater on Sunday, November 30, have been going fast, according to co-chairpersons Sister Nancy Whitley and Gerard Guerinet, M.D.

A 15 percent discount is being allowed for

groups of 25 or more.

The show is scheduled for two performances on November 30 at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased at the Founders Club office at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, 1437 Blossom Road,

Rochester, or by calling (716)288-4817. Sister Mary Justin Morris is handling the advance sales. The tickets cost \$25, \$19, \$16, \$13, and \$10, and will be available at Ticketron outlets around November 1.

The Founders Club of the Sisters of Mercy of Rochester, sponsor of the event, is an organization composed of lay persons. It was

founded in 1967 to raise funds for the education of members of the Mercy congregation.

The Sisters of Mercy serve the Diocese of Rochester in elementary, secondary and advanced education as well as nursing, social work, parish ministry and outreach to the poor and disadvantaged.

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